Rhodora

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THE NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB

Vol. 14. October, 1912. No. 166

EDITORIAL.

Our journal has now been issued for nearly fourteen years. During this period the necessary expenses of printing and publication have greatly increased and the initial subscription price of one dollar a year is quite inadequate to cover the cost. As no reduction in the cost appears to be possible which would not seriously impair the quality of the journal and as the board of editors and managers feel increasing reluctance to permit recurring deficits to become a burden to the Club, it seems necessary to bring the price of the journal more nearly into accord with the cost. After careful consideration, it has been decided to place the annual subscription price from the beginning of Volume 15 at one dollar and a half, a rate which will be uniform both for the United States and for all foreign countries within the postal union.

A FURTHER NOTE ON EUPHORBIA CYPARISSIAS IN FRUIT.

Walter Deane.

Since I reported (Rhodora, XII, 57–61, 1910) the abundant fruiting of *Euphorbia Cyparissias* L. on the estate of Mr. G. N. McMillan in Shelburne, New Hampshire, three seasons have passed, and I have examined all plants of this species met with, and made careful inquiries wherever possible. The Shelburne station has flourished inordinately, spreading over much more territory and perfecting its seeds in a manner worthy of a better cause. Indeed the case has

become so serious that a portion of the ground, covered by this plant, has been ploughed up, and Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) planted. I know of no other place where this Euphorbia has so persistently spread to such an extent. The fact that fresh plants appear many rods from established areas seems to indicate clearly that the seeds are responsible for these new colonies, while such colonies rapidly increase by means of the rootstocks in which the plants abound.

I have learned of but two new places where the plants develop fruit, these cases being interesting as showing the abundance of capsules where fruit is formed, while the fact that so few cases have come to my notice would seem to indicate the scarcity of fruiting areas, especially since attention has been previously called to the subject. Mr. W. Herriot of Galt, Ontario, kindly sent me in November, 1911, some fine fruiting specimens of *Euphorbia Cyparissias* L., collected by him in Galt on June 18, 1911. He wrote me several letters during the course of the year in regard to the species from which I will make extracts. On March 12, 1911, he says, "Regarding the fruiting of *Euphorbia Cyparissias* I have known the plant well for over 30 years, it being a common plant in old graveyards especially, but occasional by roadsides where it is very troublesome as a weed, being very difficult to eradicate. As to the fruiting I cannot speak with any certainty previous to 1910, my attention being drawn to its fruiting because I wanted to procure seed for the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa in their making up of extensive seed collections in which they are now engaged. I procured about one pint of seed altogether, and I would say that it fruits quite generally with us." In regard to the season of fruiting Mr. Herriot says under date of December 23, 1911, "Last year I collected the plants in full bloom on May 24, and the specimens I sent to you [in very ripe fruit] were collected June 18 of this year. On June 27 I collected about one half a pint of mature seed." The Shelburne plants were ripe on June 16, and on July 2 were rapidly losing their seeds.

I am indebted to Mr. Robert A. Ware for the other instances of the fruiting of this species. His letter to me, dated from his home, The Warelands, Norfolk, Massachusetts, June 6, 1912, is so full of interesting detail that I venture to quote it in full.

"You asked me for some notes on *Euphorbia Cyparissias* L. in fruit. Since you called attention, a few years ago, to the infrequency with which this plant is reported in fruit, I have examined such colonies of

it as I have chanced upon in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. In but one place have I found it in fruit, and that was in Greenfield, this state, on June 16, 1910. There I found two stations.

"The first station was on one of the main residential streets when I was walking from my hotel — the Welden — to spend a half day on the near-by elevation known locally as the 'Poet's Seat.' The plants were very numerous over an area of approximately thirty meters square, extending from the grassy street-side up a dilapidated bank-wall and over a part of a lot of grass land, in another part of which was a dwelling. The plants carried an abundance of well developed fruit in such an advanced stage of maturity that on drying there was a strong tendency for the fruit to become detached.

"On my return by a different route, I found on the margin of the settled portion of the city, two other patches close by each other, and distant from the first station a half or three-quarters of a mile. Though the area here was considerably less, the plants were numerous and bore abundant, well developed fruit.

"This year, on May 11th, I revisited the first station. The plants appeared to be as numerous as on my first visit, but were only just coming into flower. The area covered by them was limited on two sides by as many streets, while in another direction it was marked by a line beyond which the grass is kept closely cut as a lawn about the dwelling above referred to. Evidently the grass between the lawn and the street is allowed to mature before it is cut, a period which allows also for the maturity of the spurge.

"As to the persistency of the species in the face of a determined effort to eradicate it, I cannot speak from wide experience, but my belief is that it is not difficult to get rid of it if one wishes to do so. And for this reason: — when, some fifteen years ago, we first took possession of this place, I found, on one part of the house grounds, a tangle of low blackberry vines, grass and this Euphorbia. It seemed to me then a discouraging task to get them out of the way. But by frequent cutting I soon found that the undesired plants were willing to give up the struggle, and I have had no trouble from them since. Just beyond the limits of my cutting, however, they are holding their own with unabated vigor.

"As the first house here was built by my ancestors in the latter part of the seventeenth century, it is likely that the plants have been long in possession of certain places where they still persist. Ever since we have been here I have looked for fruit, but have never seen it here."

A specimen of the Greenfield Euphorbia in fruit is in my herbarium. There are now on record four American stations where *Euphorbia Cyparissias* has been found in fruit, Shelburne, New Hampshire, Greenfield, Massachusetts, Staten Island, New York, and Galt, Ontario. I shall continue to seek information in regard to the fruiting status of this species, and I trust that any new cases will be called to my attention.

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

THE SAND PLUM IN INDIANA.

E. J. Hill.

During the summer of 1906 I discovered a *Prunus* which differed from any heretofore seen in the region about Chicago. It was growing in the sand just without the right of way of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad, near Dune Park, Lake County, Indiana. The nearness to the railroad and the striking difference between its leaves and those of *Prunus Americana*, the common wild plum of this region, led me to conclude that it was an introduction. It was mainly represented by bushy branched shrubs, 1–3 m. high, which were quite thorny, or provided with short, spinescent branches. They formed two narrow thickets, each extending for several rods beside the fence which separated them from the railroad. They were examined the next spring for flowers, but too late for petals. No fruit set that year. In the spring of 1908 good flowers were obtained May 2nd, about two weeks earlier than the time of visiting them the year before. No fruit was borne that year. Enough had been disclosed by the flowers to make it evident that, if perfected, the fruit would be a plum. But, from the character of the leaves and flowers, and the habit of the shrub, I had concluded it was the sand plum, *P. Watsoni* Sarg., or if not specifically distinct, *P. angustifolia* Marsh., var. *Watsoni* (Sarg.) Waugh, introduced here from the western plains. Since it freely spreads by long roots running just below the surface of the ground, sending up new shoots or suckers at the distance of 4 or 5 m from the

parent stem in some cases, it seemed well equipped for propagation even if lacking fruit. But it has been examined every season for fruit, though not for flowers, without avail till the present. This year (1912) it was abundant, the greater part of the mature shrubs being in bearing. It varied somewhat in size and shape, but no more than is seen in the fruit of *P. Americana*. The season lasts three or four weeks, beginning about the middle of July. The plums are bright red, without bloom, globose, 7–10 mm. in diameter, or larger and slightly lengthened on some shrubs. The skin is firm but not thick, flesh yellow and pleasantly acid, stone ovoid to oval, rather large and thick, the surface rugose. It was apparently an improvement on the sand-plum of the west, approaching the Chickasaw plum. In a climate with a greater and more evenly distributed rainfall, changes for the better might be expected. There were a few cases in which the shrubs were more tree-like in form, reaching a height of four meters, but the mass of them was low, the trunks 3–10 dm. high. The points in which it approaches *P. angustifolia* may be an argument in favor of its varietal character.

To account for the plums I had gone back to the time when I had noticed manure spread on both sides of the railway track through the dune region. From its appearance it evidently came from the stock-yards of Chicago or from stock cars. It was apparently done to encourage the growth of some covering for the sand. This was about 1890. It is not uncommon to find western plants springing up in the dump from stock cars, some of them persisting and becoming members of our flora. It seemed altogether probable that the plum had been introduced then, spread beyond the fence, and though destroyed within the enclosure by continual cutting, had held on outside. My conjecture was unexpectedly corroborated the day the fruit was found. Seeing some trackmen at work close by I asked their overseer if he had lived in the vicinity for a number of years. Learning that he had I questioned him about the plums. He said that manure from the stockyards had been spread beside the track about twenty years before, and the plums came up just after. As I had given him no hint of my conjecture, this proved strong evidence in its favor. His knowledge of the character of the plum and of previous fruiting was shown by a further statement that he had transferred some to his yard but did not think them worth cultivating, they were so low and bushy and the stone was large in proportion to the flesh.

That this *Prunus* came from the west rather than from the south is most probable both from the general movement of stock for the Chicago market and from the hardiness of the shrub. If we refer it to the Chickasaw plum, we find the range of this considerably south of this latitude. It comes into the extreme southern part of Illinois, being credited to Union county by Vasey, and into the corresponding part of Indiana, being credited to Gibson county by Schneck. Both of these stations are near the Ohio river. In his catalogue of the flowering plants and ferns of Indiana, Stanley Coulter says under *P. angustifolia:* "Of rare occurrence in the southwestern counties of the state. It is reported as growing on dry, rather rocky slopes. I have seen no specimens and the species is admitted on the authority of collectors."[1] Schneck for Gibson county is the only person cited. It is not given among the trees of Indiana by Chas. C. Deam in the Eleventh annual Report of the State Board of Forestry of Indiana (1911.)

It does not seem to be hardy as far north as the south end of Lake Michigan or probably any farther north than the localities mentioned for these two states. Sargent says of it, "In eastern New England it is barely hardy, seldom flowering and never producing fruit."[2] But the *Prunus* at Dune Park appears as hardy as any indigenous member of our flora. All the circumstances tend to the conviction that it was introduced from the western plains, and that its apparently improved condition is due to a better environment than in its native region.

Chicago, Illinois.

[1] Report of the State Geologist, 1901, p. 794.
[2] The Silva of North America **4**: 26, 1892.

GALIUM LABRADORICUM IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Bayard Long.

In the summer of 1910 it was my fortune to make the acquaintance of *Galium labradoricum* Wiegand in its native bogs along the lower St. Lawrence in the Province of Quebec, Canada. Among the host of interesting plants new to me, this humble little bed-straw, for some reason, was always of particular interest whenever it was found at a new locality. Doubtless its comparatively late recognition and its perfect distinctness from allies which at one time were a fertile source of considerable confusion, made it a pleasing species to know in the field.

When, during the following winter, in examining and identifying some local collections of Mr. Harold W. Pretz of Allentown, Pennsylvania, I came upon several sheets of this same little *Galium*, I naturally at once wrote him for more data and information regarding its occurrence, since to the best of my knowledge the species had not been known south of west-central New York [1] and northwestern Connecticut.[2]

I learned that Mr. Pretz's plants had come from Monroe County, Pennsylvania, in the vicinity of Saylorsburg. Through his kindness, I was enabled on August 6, 1911, to visit the locality with him. Mr. Pretz's original collection was on June 13, 1909, when the plant was found in good flower, but this second time in 1911 we were not so fortunate: the flowering-season was past and even good fruit was rare.

The locality lies in the terminal-moraine region just north of the main ridge of the Blue Mountains, between Wind Gap and Saylorsburg. There is a line of bogs here near the head of Aquashicola [3] Creek, supporting species like *Salix candida* and *Lobelia Kalmii*, plants which ordinarily find the southern limit of their range within

[1] Wiegand, Rhodora, vi. 21 (1904); Haberer, Rhodora, vii. 109 (1905).

[2] Bissell, Rhodora, v. 33 (1903).

[3] The United States Official Postal Guide has been followed in the spelling of this name, since there would seem to be no logical reason why the name of the creek should be spelled differently from that of the village, and since considerable discrepancy was found to occur upon the various maps consulted. The spelling used in the Second Geological Survey of Pennsylvania (G 6. p. 29) and in J. L. Smith's Topographical, Township and Railroad Map of Pennsylvania is Aquanchicola.

or near the glaciated region of Pennsylvania. Here, associated often with *Galium tinctorium* (but perfectly distinct and showing little if any striking resemblance) and more rarely with *G. Claytoni*, was found in great abundance the object of our search. It was seen in two bogs, in the larger of which it at times formed a considerable portion of the low vegetation.

Prof. Karl M. Wiegand very kindly examined material sent to the Gray Herbarium, and verified the identification. A full suite of specimens (showing diversity of habit assumed, depending upon the character of the associated vegetation) will be deposited in the Herbarium of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Material of the original collection is also in the herbarium of Mr. Pretz at Allentown.

Doubtless the plant will be found in similar bogs in the higher Alleghenies or in other localities on the Pocono Plateau, when these areas have been more systematically explored. There are bogs in Northampton County, south of the Blue Mountains (but within the terminal-moraine region), which are very similar in character to those on Aquashicola Creek and support many of the same species. These bogs have been pretty thoroughly explored but it would not be surprising if the *Galium* should be discovered there. Another very possible locality is the area of glaciated bogs in northern New Jersey.

All of these areas, originally suggested to my mind by the occurrence there of similar bogs and associated species, strikingly agree in general with the remark of Prof. Wiegand that *Galium labradoricum* in the Pocono of Pennsylvania would show a distribution like that of *Amelanchier Bartramiana*, which reaches its southern limit in the mountain regions of eastern Pennsylvania — in the Alleghenies, the Poconos, and the Blue Mountains. The general distribution of either of the two above species might be briefly written: Eastern Pennsylvania and the region around the western portion of Lake Superior northward to Labrador.

Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.

TILLAEA IN NANTUCKET.

Maria L. Owen.

In 1841, William Oakes reported *Tillaea simplex* Nutt. amongst other plants found in 1829 in Nantucket. (Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture and Botany, Vol. VII. p. 182.) This name now gives place to the earlier *T. aquatica* L., while at least a part of the specimens of *Tillaea* from Nantucket show the stalked flowers and fruit as in *T. Vaillantii* Willd. We cannot doubt that Mr. Oakes collected a *Tillaea* in 1829 and that no more of it was found till 1894. It is the circumstances of this late find which I wish to record and its second disappearance from that year up to the present time. Its correct name, whether *T. aquatica* L., *T. Vaillantii* Willd., or even some different one cannot be settled until we catch the elusive little plant again. Mr. Oakes stated that he collected it "on the dried borders of small ponds" on the island, and in my collecting days I used to hope to come across it, and I have mentioned it to botanists visiting Nantucket, as something to look for.

From about 1890 on, Mrs. Mabel P. Robinson with her family spent several consecutive summers on the island; she was a diligent collector and student of its flora, and I made my usual recommendation to her. This time not in vain!

I was living in Springfield then, and with the specimen which Mrs. Robinson sent me there, she wrote that she had come home from one of her long walks with her box full of plants, and had analyzed most of them and decided on their names when she took up this little thing, in poor condition for it was then a day or two old. It was, indeed, so far gone that after some study she gave it up and was just going to throw it away, when what I had told her of *Tillaea* flashed into her mind. She took up the specimen again and was quickly convinced that the long-sought rarity was hers — *Tillaea* had come out of its seclusion of sixty-five years!

This was in August, 1894. In 1896, the first time after that that we were on the island together I invited Mrs. Robinson to drive out to Hummock Pond with me and show me the *Tillaea* locality. We went along the east shore and stopped near the southern limit of the pines; there Mrs. Robinson left me to hunt up the spot, but soon came back

and taking me to the edge of a bank pointed down to what looked to me like a large patch (perhaps twelve feet by six) of *Myriophyllum tenellum* Big. such as I often used to see by the ponds amongst the hills between Almanac Pond and Sankaty Head — "Could any of that growth have been *Tillaea?*" was my quick question. I went out soon afterwards to investigate thoroughly, but my previous visits there were made some fifty years before, and I now found, to my sorrow, the low shores of these ponds invaded by a sturdy growth of cattails which has probably completely filled the water by this time.

I return to Hummock. This bank was some ten or twelve feet high. We went down — it was very wet below, although at a considerable distance from the pond edge — and found the bright green sod composed of "very small tufted plants an inch or two high, rooting at the base," just as the Manual says, but the numerous flowers of a purer white than I expected to see. The well-formed fruit in all stages was as abundant as the flowers and made the specimens complete and perfect, all that could be desired for the herbarium. I cut out sods for my botanical friends, but the late Mr. L. L. Dame who was at his summer home in Siasconset was the only one who could have received the plant in all its freshness. The last time I saw him, the year before he died, I asked him if he remembered it, "Perfectly" he replied. "The pretty little flowers that starred the sod, and the fine fruit?" "Perfectly" was again the reply. No human being has, to my knowledge seen the patch again. I have looked for it myself a number of times in company with keen and quick-eyed searchers to whom I have described what I wanted, but we never found it.

In 1902 Mrs. Robinson went out with me again; she not only could not find the spot but she seemed to have forgotten it and the plant too. She took me to the edge of the water and after search amongst the floating weeds drew out what she said was *Tillaea*. I was amazed, but I later found that it is so called by other botanists.

Tillaea simplex Nutt. is described in every edition of Gray's Manual, in Gray's Field, Forest and Garden Botany and in Wood's Class-book, and always as a low tufted plant with white flowers rooting in the mud. Oakes found it rooting in the mud. Now these three botanists surely never knew of the aquatic form which differs from their plant in many striking particulars. It grows in shallow water, though sometimes two feet deep, rooting at the bottom, but reaching up to the surface; it is apt to break off and then, entangled with other water

growths, is washed ashore by the ripple of the wind-stirred waves. When drawn out of the water it hangs limp from the stick, a pale olive-colored mass; no flower or fruit visible to the naked eye. The land form is beautiful, but this — vegetation can hardly be more unlovely. The land form answers, point by point, Dr. Gray's description in every edition of his Manual, while this differs point by point.

But my concern is to find my lost station and to rediscover Oakes's locality, for which our only guide is his statement that it was "the dried-up edge of small ponds." Now he never would have called Hummock, two miles long, a small pond; besides, that accurate botanist used the plural number — he found it in more than one spot. Along the south coast of the island there is a row of shallow ponds, one or two about half a mile long, the others of varying smaller size. Some of them are entirely dry now, though they keep their place on the map, but in 1829 they probably all had water in their beds. Now to give a guess at Mr. Oakes's walks, I should say that his collector's instinct would have led him speedily to the "Head of Hummock" which is not far from town, and, finding the vegetation rich there, he would have kept along the east shore of the pond, and as he got towards the southern end, he would have seen Reedy Pond and from that have been lured along first to Great Mioxes and then to Little Mioxes. These answer his description; they are small, and might be partly dried up at any time, that condition depending on the character of the season for much or little rain. Miacomet, a pond about a mile long, is about as far from town, but if he walked out to that and went down its east side, he might naturally have turned from its lower end along the south shore of the island and have come to Weeweeder, a small pond, and the first of the row just mentioned. They follow, one after another, at such short distances, that he would have been likely to keep on till he had searched them all. These are Nobadeer, Madequecham, Toopcha and Forked, and to my mind, these after the three before mentioned, are the most likely places on the whole island. Moreover, these are the only ponds that I ever knew, which answered Mr. Oakes's description of his locality. The aquatic form is certainly not what Oakes found, and it was doubtless as unknown to him as it was to Dr. Gray after him, so his station is still undiscovered, and mine is lost for the present. But I solemnly advise collectors to keep away from these ponds from Reedy to the Forked Ponds. The life savers who patrol the coast report that recently quicksands have been

discovered near Reedy Pond and the Mioxes so dangerous that they will not bear up the weight of a small dog. Of course they may develop at any time on the edge of the others; the only safe course is to keep away from all. But to console those who long to explore them I will say that Oakes's stations will probably never be seen again — the physical changes of eighty-three years have obliterated them. My patch however doubtless still exists, and there is a happy day in store for any botanist who sees it at just the right season — that bright green sod starred profusely with the small but conspicuous white flowers.

Manhasset, Long Island.

The Seventeenth Annual Field Meeting of the Vermont Botanical Club was held at Franklin, conjointly with the Vermont Bird Club, on Thursday and Friday, July 25 and 26. Head quarters were at the Franklin House and about thirty members of both clubs attended. A short business meeting was held the evening before, in the public library of Franklin. The forenoon of Thursday was spent in exploring a sphagnum bog in which besides the plants usual to such a habitat the rare white fringed orchid, *Habenaria blephariglottis* (Willd.) Torr. was found, also the bladderwort, *Utricularia cornuta* Michx. Next day another sphagnum bog was visited about five miles from Franklin and lying in the three towns of Franklin, Berkshire, and Enosburgh. Here the white fringed orchid was abundant and several other bog orchids were found. Some hybrids of *Rumex* were seen by the roadside. *Scirpus Peckii* Britton was found in a low meadow and the European *Malva Alcea* L., var. *fastigiata* was abundant at several roadside stations in the vicinity. At North Sheldon, *Linaria minor* (L.) Desf. and a very dwarf form of *Silene noctiflora* L. were observed, growing abundantly between the railway tracks. About a half a dozen new members were added to the Club and the meeting will be remembered with pleasure by all who were present. The winter meeting will be held at St. Johnsbury in January, 1913.— Nellie F. Flynn, Burlington, Vermont.

A New Station for Rubus idaeus, var. anomalus.— It may be of interest to readers of Rhodora to know that upon May 19th, of the present season I found a single plant of *Rubus idaeus* L. var. *anomalus* Arrhenius, in Townshend, Vermont, growing upon a rocky hillside. The ridge upon which the plant was growing, while not especially limey, is somewhat so, enough so that it has been quarried at some little distance from the station, in former years.

Determination was by Prof. Fernald. The plant had two good fruiting canes, one of which was sent to the herbarium of the New England Botanical Club and the other retained in my private herbarium.— Leston A. Wheeler, Townshend, Vermont.

A Connecticut Station for Ilex mollis. — Mr. W. E. Campbell of New Haven has recently found a plant of this species growing in the woods on the estate of Mr. T. W. Bryant at Torrington, Connecticut. Regarding the plant Mr. Bryant writes,— "This shrub has grown in a thicket of undergrowth and was saved by me in cutting the underbrush. I know of six separate clumps. The largest has a parent root about six inches in diameter out of which grow six branches, the largest of which is about twelve feet high. This is evidently an old plant and is completely covered with berries. The other clumps are small and I should judge young, and only one or two of them have any berries at all." This discovery is interesting for this is the first time, I believe, that this species has been found in New England or nearer New England than the Catskill Mountains.— C. S. Sargent, Arnold Arboretum.

[The Torrington station is apparently the second in New England. In Rhodora, vi. 204, Mr. Ralph Hoffmann recorded a station found by him in June, 1902, on the western side of the Dome in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, where the *Ilex* was "growing commonly in the shade in the moist woodland." Several sheets of material from the Dome are preserved in the herbarium of the New England Botanical Club.— Eds.]

Galium trifidum at Wellesley, Massachusetts.— Last September, while canoeing on Lake Waban, Wellesley, I found, growing

in a wet marshy place on the edge of the lake, a small quantity of *Galium trifidum* L. In the seventh edition of Gray's Manual the southern range of this species is given as "south to northern and western New England." The only record of the species from Massachusetts in the herbarium of the New England Botanical Club is from Berkshire County. The material from Lake Waban was identified for me by Prof. Wiegand.— F. W. Hunnewell 2d, Wellesley, Massachusetts.

An Occurrence of Nicotiana rustica in Massachusetts.— While beating up the "Peat meadow" section of Worcester, Massachusetts, for late-blooming plants on October 6th the writer came unexpectedly across a fine station of the Wild Tobacco (*Nicotiana rustica* L.). The flowering period had passed, and the plants were in full fruit. A specimen, forwarded to the Gray Herbarium by Mrs. E. L. Horr, was there identified, with the comment that the occurrence of this species in the New England states has not been very definitely recorded except in Connecticut and that the station in Worcester had better be put on published record.

The colony here observed consisted of five plants, two being close together, a third about six feet away, and two more (some four feet apart) at a distance of some twenty yards. The three plants near together, were in poor soil, mixed with broken bricks, ashes, and other dumping-ground refuse, while the further group was in a small patch of grassland. Within ten yards of the first group was a solitary stalk of *Hibiscus Trionum* with one open flower, one inflated fruiting calyx, and two unopened buds. At a distance of about fifty yards from the group were two fine plants of *Abutilon Theophrasti*. Other plants in the vicinity were *Arctium minus*, several species of *Chenopodium*, a single stalk of *Helianthus annuus*, *Sambucus canadensis*, *Typha latifolia*, *Eupatorium purpureum*, var. *maculatum*, etc.

While one of the main thoroughfares of the city passes within two hundred yards of the stand of the Tobacco, the surrounding soil is of a peaty character and the peat-bog comes close to the spot. Between the Tobacco and the street, however, the land has been filled in and

graded for building purposes, to some extent; but none of it has ever been under cultivation.— Norman P. Woodward, Worcester, Massachusetts.

A seedless Barberry found at Sherborn, Massachusetts.— At the request of the editor, it gives me pleasure to send Rhodora some notes upon a seedless Barberry, which I recently sent to the Gray Herbarium, where it was identified as *Berberis vulgaris*, var. *asperma*. The shrub has been known here for about forty years, but its characteristic feature was not found out until four or five years ago, when it was discovered by chance. The shrub stands in partial shade on sloping ground in a dry, rocky field, which was formerly an open pasture but is now rapidly growing up to pitch pines, junipers, blueberries, etc. Behind it is a thick stand of second growth woods, the original trees having been cut about thirty-five years ago. There are other barberries in the field, but all are typical *B. vulgaris*. So far as known the land has never been cultivated, and the plant appears to be thoroughly wild. It was brought to my notice in the autumn of 1911 by the discoverer of its seedless character, who not being a botanist did not appreciate the scientific interest of the discovery. The plant bore little fruit then, though it was large and apparently thrifty, and I was able to collect only a poor specimen, which was deposited in the herbarium of the Boston Society of Natural History, No. 713 of the Flora of Sherborn, Massachusetts. This year, however, I have been able to get good flowering and fruiting material, specimens of which I have placed in the Gray Herbarium and with the Boston Society of Natural History, Nos. 713a and 713b.— Martha Louise Loomis, Sherborn, Massachusetts.

An American Station for Illecebrum verticillatum.— Among some plants recently identified for me at the Gray Herbarium was a specimen of *Illecebrum verticillatum* L., a species somewhat widely distributed in Europe and northern Africa, but apparently not hitherto recorded from America. I found it on land formerly occupied by the Reading Nursery, at Reading, Massachusetts. This nursery lot was

abandoned several years ago and since then has not been cultivated. The ground is everywhere covered with plants of various kinds, with an occasional exotic cropping out among the native ones. The Illecebrum was probably accidentally introduced some years ago on some foreign nursery stock. It has now become quite established and covers the ground thickly over a considerable area.— C. C. Kingman, Reading, Massachusetts.

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